

USSN 09/805 426

A version of claim 1 marked up to show changes made thereto follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of treating a ceramic core after molding and before firing for use in casting molten metallic material, comprising placing an unfired ceramic core having a molded core shape and having an organic binder on at least one setter, placing said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core thereon on a conveyor that conveys said at least one setter and said unfired core through a heating oven, [and] conveying said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core through the heating oven to heat said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core to an elevated superambient temperature effective to soften said binder to reduce distortion of said unfired ceramic core, and removing said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core having softened organic binder from said oven to cool to ambient temperature.

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Add new claims 11-12 as follows:

b2
sub
up

11. A method of treating a ceramic core after molding and before firing for use in casting molten metallic material, comprising a) heating an unfired ceramic core having a molded core shape and having an organic binder on at least one setter in a heating oven to an elevated superambient temperature effective to soften said binder to reduce distortion of said unfired ceramic core and b) removing said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core having softened organic binder from said oven to cool to ambient temperature.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the said unfired ceramic core includes an airfoil region.
